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8-14-1942

### Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [August 14, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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August 14, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I am looking forward to seeing you but I am also disappointed. It may seem unimportant to spend a few hours meeting some "young man" you've never seen and don't care much about. But this time this is something that means a great deal to me.

Of course you realize what's going to happen. You'll stay at the Hunts until about 2 or 2:30 and then go to Blue Earth and spend at least an hour there. By that time it will be 4:30 or 5. So then you'll start for Ames — if you aren't ~~inveigled~~ ~~into~~ staying for supper — and get here at some ungodly hour in the middle of the night. So the next morning we will be rushing around and loading the car and then leave at 9:30 after my broadcast. You will have a wonderful opportunity to meet Fred as he helps carry my things out to the car. Perhaps there will 5 minutes before or after my broadcast.

Then about a year from now when I want to get engaged to him you'll say, "But dear, we hardly know the man." Don't try to tell me that



about that time you won't have any interest in the man I want to marry.

I've been away from home 8 months and you haven't been down here once — not even in the 2 years I've been here. Now that doesn't hurt so much. I realize that some things just can't be as we'd like them. Trips down here are expensive and you are so busy and now there is the tire problem. But now that you are coming you ~~will~~ ~~try to~~ won't even give me a few hours. You have to spend them calling on friends that don't figure in your life very much any more. And Fred and I have to sort of lay up the crumbs.

Of course you realize that I'm really being very sensible <sup>in</sup> ~~this~~ this. Weddings and engagements are going on among our very closest friends. They are taking their chances in spite of the war. We could get a license if we wanted to and go to Missouri and get married right away. I am of marriageable age here and have lived in Iowa more than 6 months. But we aren't even going to be engaged for quite a while. And you haven't the vaguest idea what a struggle it has been to make that decision and accept it.



When you got married you could look ahead to a couple of years of peaceful, leisurely living. We can't look forward to anything but danger and death and the thought that, each time we say good-bye, it may be the last time.

I know Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Wilson are real good friends even if I don't remember them like you do — but this time this means so very much to me.

Mrs. Powers has invited us all out to their place for Sunday supper. You'd better let me know what to tell her. I will stay with some of my friends. There may or may not be room for C.L. I will try to let you know.

I got an A on my term paper for Textile Economics so will probably get an A in the course. There isn't any other news. I am <sup>(studying)</sup> working tonight — Friday. I haven't finished my radio script or my Homemaker article but everything else is out of the way.

I doubt that Fred can come to St. Cloud because he'll probably have to stay here and work. And if he gets into the Medical Corps he



may have to spend his furlough working with a doctor.

I'm sorry this is such an awful letter. But it's just as though I brought Fred home to "visit in our home" and you went off on a vacation somewhere.

As I look over your letter, you've got the whole trip down here filled with all these ~~new~~ various and sundry people. So the oldest daughter and the guy ~~that~~ she wants to marry don't even count. If you can squeeze in a few minutes for us, just let me know. I don't want you to cut out any plans you've made but can't you sort of keep the time element under control so that you could get us in, too? After all, I'm a member of the family, aren't I? Virginia